

## 2013 DEER REDUCTION INFORMATION SHEET FOR POKAGON STATE PARK

Please save or print a copy of this document for reference. You are responsible for understanding all the following information.



### Important Note

We appreciate your willingness to help manage the impact from deer browsing. For this reduction to be effective, please harvest any deer that presents a safe and ethical shot (within established bag limits), especially those that are antlerless. Please make every effort to be present during the reduction. The number of hunters allowed at each park is strategically calculated. Your absence affects how successfully we reach our objective of a balanced ecosystem.

- Date/Time: The 2013 Deer Reduction hunts will be conducted on November 18<sup>th</sup> & 19<sup>th</sup> and December 2<sup>nd</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup>. The park will be closed to the general public starting from 8 p.m. EST (7 p.m., CST) on the Sunday before each hunt period through 6 p.m. EST (5 p.m., CST) the Tuesday following each hunt period. In order to enter the park the day(s) of the hunt, you must show identification and your notification letter or card received in this mailing.
- Hunt Hours: Hunters may enter the field no earlier than 5:30 a.m. Actual shooting hours one half hour before sunrise (local time) until 4 p.m. EST (3 p.m. CST)
- Bag Limit: During each reduction period for which you have been drawn, you are allowed to take up to three deer, only one of which can be antlered. These deer do not count against your regular state deer hunting license or bag limit. Please do not pass on antlerless deer for deer with antlers.
- Open House: There will be an open house for hunters on the Sunday before each hunt period. **Attendance is not mandatory but it will allow you to visit, ask questions and receive information.** Park personnel will be on hand to help in any way they can.
- For hunters drawn for November 18<sup>th</sup> & 19<sup>th</sup>, information can be picked up at Pokagon's Nature Center on Sunday, November 17<sup>th</sup> from Noon to 4 p.m.
- For hunters drawn for December 2<sup>nd</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup>, information can be picked up at Pokagon's Nature Center on Sunday, December 1<sup>st</sup> from Noon to 4 p.m.
- Ground Blinds: Ground Blinds are **PROHIBITED**
- Tree Stands: NON-PENETRATING tree stands may be put up by those drawn for the hunt. Stands may be installed anytime after 8:00 a.m. on the Saturday of the

weekend prior to your hunt date (one week prior). All stands must be removed on the last day of the hunt for each period. If you intend to mark the area of your tree stand with a plastic ribbon, please make sure you collect that ribbon at the end of the hunt so you do not confuse later hunters and hikers in the park. As a general rule, please take out anything you bring into the park. Please practice “leave no trace” ethics to ensure a clean and high quality park.

**A 5-point safety harness is highly recommended for this hunt!**

- Safety Zones: SAFETY ZONES have been established and marked with bright yellow plastic ribbons. You may not enter these areas except to retrieve a deer. Loaded firearms are not permitted in safety zones, park buildings or service areas.
- Hunter Orange: At all firearms hunts, a participant must expose outer garments with hunter orange, including both hat **AND** vest, coat, jacket or coveralls. This gear should be worn at all times.
- Alcoholic Beverages: Absolutely NO ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES will be allowed in the park.
- Meat Handling: You must take possession of all deer you harvest. Please plan in advance for donating your deer to charity or a food bank if your freezer is full by the time of the hunt. Contact the property for a list of meat handling companies in the area that process deer if you wish to donate meat to charity. It is up to you to pay all processing costs. When leaving the property with harvested deer, please cover them with a tarp or other suitable material.
- Substitutes: Do not attempt to come up with a substitute if you know you cannot participate in the reduction hunt.
- Hunters With Disabilities: If you have a DNR disability hunting license and indicated this on your application, you should call the park office before November 16th so we can try to accommodate any special needs you may have.
- Parking: Park only in authorized areas. You may park along the edge of roads as long as you are just off the road and not too far into grass or surrounding vegetation.
- Tagging: You will receive permanently assigned tags to place on all harvested deer when they are brought to the check station.
- Retrieval: You are responsible to retrieve your deer from the field. If you do need assistance, please make the check station aware of this and an effort will be made to provide assistance. DO NOT leave the property and trespass on private property in an attempt to retrieve a downed deer. Contact the check station, park personnel or Law Enforcement Personnel immediately.

- Field Dressing: Please do not field dress deer in any mowed or public area. Field dress at least 50 ft. from any road or trail and cover the entrails with leaf litter.
- Non-hunters: If you encounter non-hunters in the field, please contact property personnel and they will handle the matter.
- Check Station: All deer must be checked-in no later than 5:00 p.m. each day to the check station. The check station is located directly behind the park office.
- Camping: **NO CAMPING WILL BE PERMITTED IN THE PARK DURING THE HUNTS.**
- Staying at the Inn: Hunters may stay at the Potawatomi Inn, but there will be limited services since the Inn is closed to the general public. Hunters will need to contact the Inn directly at 260.833.1077 to make a reservation. Upon check in, hunters will have to show the same credentials as they would for accessing the park during the hunt.

### **!!TAKING OF ANTLERED & ANTLERLESS DEER!!**

Please keep in mind the purpose of your deer hunting opportunity on State Park or Nature Preserve properties is to reduce the deer herd in order to prevent overgrazing and resulting damage of the properties' vegetation.

Our primary goal is to take does since they have the largest long-term impact on a population. However, we recognize that antlered deer also directly contribute to the grazing impacts on the properties and appreciate your help with their removal. We are concerned that some hunters may be passing up antlerless deer and deer with small antlers. Those hunters who pass on opportunities to remove deer with no or small antlers are actually hurting our ability to reduce the overgrazing problem. Whenever you have an opportunity to safely make an accurate well-placed shot, please help us by taking that deer, regardless of the antler size.

We also may have hunters passing up deer because they have filled their freezer. While we do not want deer to be taken that will be wasted, if you do not need the meat from the 2<sup>nd</sup> or 3<sup>rd</sup> deer, please consider trying to locate someone prior to our deer reduction effort who needs additional deer meat. This year, we will be partnering with Farmers and Hunters Feeding the Hungry (<http://fhfh.org/Home.asp>) during the deer reductions. This partnership would allow for donation of deer to this organization at Pokagon.

We do not want to restrict your opportunity to take home a deer, including its antlers. We may be forced to do so in future years if today's hunters pass up deer that need to be removed.

Please help us with this important effort.

## The Deer Camp – Potawatomi Inn Style...



**Potawatomi Inn  
Deer Hunt Lodging**

**Dear Pokagon Deer Hunt Participant,**

Although Pokagon State Park and the Potawatomi Inn are closed to the public during the deer hunt for which you have been drawn, we can accommodate hunters, with limited services, at the Inn. There will be no food or housekeeping services. You will, though, find a clean room and complimentary coffee to give you a quick start on our special hunt right outside your door. For room rates and to make a reservation, please call the Inn directly at 260-833-1077. You will have to identify yourself as a hunt participant and show your permit tag upon check-in. Reservations not accepted through the central reservation office or on-line.



# POKAGON STATE PARK

450 Lane 100 Lake James • Angola, Indiana 46703 • 260-833-2012  
1,260 Acres Established 1925

